

UNCLASSIFIED

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Case Number: 200000044

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:JMSMITH, JR:JC
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R 201508Z MAY 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Classify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full **DECONTROL**

(☐) Classify as ☐ (☐) Extend as ☐ (☐) Downgrade to ☐

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

[REDACTED] STATE 123842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHERS

REF: STATE 84149 (NOTAL)
BUENOS AIRES 2398 (NOTAL)
SAO PAULO 836

THE FORD FOUNDATION HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT
HAS "RECEIVED WORD FROM BUENOS AIRES THAT THE CASTELAR
GROUP HAVE BEEN RELEASED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT CONTINUING
CHARGES OF ANY KIND." ROBINSON

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE 2977
BT

IMMEDIATE ACTION

STATE 123894

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: CASC LOPEZ, GWENDA MAE LOKEN)

SUBJECT: W/W ARREST GWENDA MAE LOKEN LOPEZ

REF: A. BUENOS AIRES 3144
C. BUENOS AIRES 2912

B. BUENOS AIRES 3313

1. SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY INTERESTED.

2. AT REQUEST OF SENATOR HUMPHREY'S OFFICE, DEPARTMENT TELEPHONED FATHER OF ARRESTEE GWENDA MAE LOKEN LOPEZ ON MAY 18 TO CONFIRM AND REPORT DETAILS OF SUBJECT'S ARREST. FATHER STATED THAT HE LEARNED OF ARREST MAY 17 THROUGH TELEPHONE INQUIRY FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) REPORTER. BASED ON WORDING PARA 5 REF A, DEPARTMENT WAS UNDER IMPRESSION EMBASSY NOTIFIED PARENTS DIRECTLY. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THIS IS CORRECT.

3. REF A ALSO INDICATES THAT FIRST CONSULAR ACCESS OBTAINED MAY 6 AT WHICH TIME CONOFF NOTICED PHYSICAL SIGNS OF ABUSE (PARA 7, REF A). UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DID CONSULAR INTERVIEW TAKE PLACE (I.E., WERE GUARDS PRESENT OR WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE)? IN OPINION OF CONOFF, WAS SUBJECT IN POSITION TO BE COMPLETELY CANDID WITH CONOFF RE PHYSICAL ABUSE? IN VIEW OF BRUISES, DID CONOFF REQUEST

OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOCTOR TO EXAMINE SUBJECT TO ASCERTAIN EXTENT AND NATURE OF BRUISES? (NOTE: IN CASES WHERE PHYSICAL ABUSE IS ALLEGED, POST SHOULD FOLLOW GUIDELINES SET FORTH STATE 1285 DATED FEBRUARY 26, 1975.) FYI: IN REGARD TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION FAMILY MAY SOON REQUEST US TO HELP ARRANGE ADDITIONAL VISIT BY ARGENTINE PHYSICIAN OF THEIR CHOICE.

4. OUR PRINCIPAL IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS TO ASCERTAIN MRS. LOPEZ' HEALTH AND WELFARE AND DETERMINE ADVISABILITY OF EARLY EXAMINATION BY INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN.

DATA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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P.2 FOR THIS REASON AND BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING MRS. LOPEZ' ARREST AND INCARCERATION, CONSULAR OFFICER SHOULD AGAIN VISIT HER ASAP. IN VIEW PARA 3 REF B, VISIT TO ROSARIO WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS CHOICE OF COUNSEL ISSUE WITH BROTHER-IN-LAW AND TO INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN ANY APPROPRIATE MANNER. DEPT OFFICER CONTACTED BY PEDERSON EARLY TODAY WHO HAD TALKED TO BROTHER-IN-LAW LOPEZ. PEDERSON WAS ADVISED THAT WHILE MR. LOPEZ BEING HELD BY LOCAL POLICE, MRS. LOPEZ HAD BEEN ARRESTED UNDER NATIONAL EMERGENCY ACT AND IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF ARMY. SHE HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY AND NO ONE EXCEPT CONOFF HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT HER. THESE DEVELOPMENTS UNDERLIE NEED FOR CONSULAR VISITATION. ONE QUESTION OF CONCERN TO US IS WHETHER IT IS TO MRS. LOPEZ' ADVANTAGE TO BE REPRESENTED BY SAME LAWYER AS HUSBAND IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE DIFFERING CHARGES AND FACT THAT SHE IS ESTRANGED FROM HUSBAND.

5. MINNEAPOLIS LAWYER JAMES PEDERSON TELEPHONED DEPT INDICATING HE RETAINED BY LOKEN FAMILY. WE KNOW THAT HE HAS SPOKEN TO CONSULAR OFFICERS AND THAT HE IS CONSIDERING TRIP TO ARGENTINA.

6. UNDER PROVISIONS OF PRIVACY ACT, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF SUBJECT WILL PERMIT DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS CASE WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY AND OTHER CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES WHO MAY INQUIRE, FAMILY ATTORNEY IN US, AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. IN THIS REGARD, A BLANKET AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO DEPT IN RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES. ROBINSON

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